Remarks/Arguments:

With the present Amendment, claims 1-28 are pending, with claims 9-17, 18/9-17, 21-23, and 26-28 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 4, 18, 19, 20, 24, and 25 have been amended. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 8 is allowed and that claim 18 would be allowable if amended to depend only from claim 8.

Claim objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Title as not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title to more accurately describe the present invention and respectfully request the objection to the Title be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected to claims 19, 20, 24, and 25 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants have amended claims 19, 20, 24, and 25 to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 19, 20, 24, and 25 be withdrawn.

Claim rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19, 20, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner asserted that the claimed program does not particularly point out and distinctly claim how the computer is to function in a particular fashion, but rather instead recites limitations pertaining to the elements of the buffer memory address translation device which are not defining of the program. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it applies to the claims, as amended. Applicants have amended claims 19 and 24 to depend from claim 1 and claims 20, and 25 to depend from allowed claim 8. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19, 20, 24, and 25 are now definite as amended and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

The Examiner also rejected claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner stated that claims 24 and 25 are drawn to a "program" *per se* as recited in the preamble and as such is non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it applies to the claims, as amended. Claims 24 and 25, as amended, are each drawn to a "buffer memory address translation device" as recited in the preamble. Applicants respectfully submit that such a device is statutory patentable subject matter and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 24 and 25.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-7, 18/1-7, 19 and 24 under 35 U.S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,793,724 to Ichikawa et al. ("Ichikawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it applies to the claims, as amended.

The Examiner stated that, regarding claims 4, 6, and 7, Ichikawa discloses that the analysis means 1810 (Fig. 18) comprises: sector address information readout means of reading sector address information (ID) included in the data read from the optical disk medium; sector address information (ID) reliability determination means of determining the reliability of the read sector address information (ID)(see col. 17, line 50, through col. 18, line 18); sector address information (ID) interpolation means of interpolating sector address information (ID) for a sector the sector address information (ID) for which is not determined to be reliable; and sector address information (ID) selection means of selecting the address information (ID) readout means or the sector address information (ID) interpolated by the sector address information interpolation means according to a predetermined criterion (See col. 18, lines 19-23). The Examiner further stated that the address generation means 730 generates an address for storage into the buffer memory 702 according to the selected sector address information as claimed. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's interpretation of Ichikawa, at least as it pertains to the sector address information (ID) reliability determination means of determining the reliability of the read sector address information (ID)(see col. 17, line 50, through col. 18, line 18), recited in claim 1, as amended.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, a buffer memory address translation device, characterized in that the buffer memory address translation device comprises:

analysis means of analyzing a synchronization pattern included in data read from an optical disk medium and sector address information allowing a data position to be recognized included in the data read from said optical disk medium, wherein said analysis means comprises sector address information reliability determination means of determining the reliability of said read sector address information; and

address generation means of generating an address for storage into a buffer memory based on a result of said analysis, and

said read data is stored in a region corresponding to said generated address in said buffer memory. (Emphasis added).

In contrast, Ichikawa discloses that SBCD circuit 1810 sets a flag to one value (H) if three or more continuous IED checks produce a normal result and to another value (L) if three or more continuous IED checks produce an abnormal result. Col. 17, lines 50-54. Ichikawa fails to disclose or suggest any features or structure that is used to determine the reliability of the information. While Ichikawa determines whether an normal or an abnormal result is present, Ichikawa does not address whether such normal or abnormal result is reliable. Using Ichikawa's disclosure, normal information could be read as abnormal and vice-versa, but Ichikawa fails to provide any means for determining if the state of that information (normal or abnormal) is reliable, as is claimed in claim 1.

For the above reasons, and in light of the amendment to claim 1, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, 18/1-7, 19, and 24, which all depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.
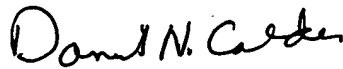
Application No.: 10/049,207   MTS-3307US
Amendment Dated: September 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: July 21, 2005

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, 18/1-8, 19, 20, 24, and 25 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons cited above. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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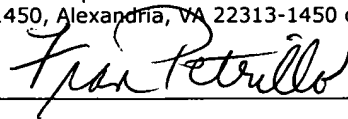Attorneys for Applicants

JEM/jem/fp

Dated: <u>September 22, 2005</u>

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